

Report on the quality and condition of Wisconsin Territory, 1831 /

399

REPORT ON THE QUALITY AND CONDITION OF WISCONSIN TERRITORY, 1831. BY SAMUEL STAMBAUGH.¹

¹ Stambaugh was United States Indian agent at Green Bay, 1831–32, being succeeded by George Boyd in September of the latter year. See Morgan L. Martin's estimate of Stambaugh, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, p. 392; also, numerous references to him in many of the volumes of this series. The interesting report here given has been copied from the original MS. on file in the War Department at Washington, through the kindness of Lewis S. Patrick, of Marinette.— Ed.

Indian Agency, Green Bay , November 8, 1831.

To the Secretary of War :

Sir: Instructions communicated to me from the War Department, under date of April 21st, 1831, directing the payment of certain duties relating to the Treaty entered into between the United States and the Menominie Tribe of Indians, on the 9th day of February last,² require that I should “ *traverse the Country ceded for the benefit of New York Indians, and by observation and information endeavor to ascertain the quality and condition of it, that the Senate in their ensuing session may be fully informed of its capacity to sustain their population, and of its capability to administer to their wants in all agricultural purposes .*”

² This treaty was concluded at Washington, February 8, 1831, between John H. Eaton, secretary of war, and Samuel C. Stambaugh, Indian agent at Green Bay, representatives of the president, and the chiefs and head men of the Menomonees. See *Treaties*

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between the United States of America and the several Indian tribes, from 1778 to 1837 (Washington, 1837), pp. 466–474. Other documents relative to the migration of the “New York Indians” to Wisconsin are given in many of the preceding volumes of *Wis. Hist. Colls.* See Davidson's résumé of this much-controverted matter, in his “The Coming of the New York Indians to Wisconsin,” in *Wis.Hist. Soc. Proc.*, 1899, pp. 153—185.— Ed.

400

These instructions further say—“ *it is desirable that a partial examination be made of the lands ceded between Lake Michigan and Green Bay ,*” and add, that “ *any survey of the country will be useless and unnecessary until the Treaty be ratified; a general view of it, its situation, soil and capacity for those who are to inhabit it is all that will be necessary, and to these it is requested you will give your attention, in the examination to be made, that the Senate when they come to act upon this long contested matter, may thoroughly comprehend the whole grounds of controversy, and be able definitely to adjust and settle it* .”

I have the honor to inform you that the duties prescribed by the above instructions, have been performed. And, as the controversy which has given origin to the proposed examination has assumed an imposing attitude, and has become of serious importance to the Government, I have quoted my Instructions thus copiously, for the purpose of showing that I have not transcended the powers they convey, by the latitude I have found it necessary to take in the prosecution of my investigations. It would be entirely impossible to place this “long contested matter” before the Senate, in such a form as would enable that body to “thoroughly comprehend the whole ground of controversy,” by a brief Geographical sketch of the country, “ceded by the Menominie Treaty.” I have, therefore, applied all the means within my power to obtain a full and correct understanding of the subject matter of this dispute, and have embraced the result of my inquiries, relating to the original cause, commencement and progress of the controversy, in my Report to

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you of the 14th of August, to which you will find it necessary to refer in examining this communication.

That report exhibits all the testimony upon which each party relies for a favorable judgment, and, when considered in connection with the facts contained in this communication, the object contemplated by the spirit of my instructions will, I trust, be accomplished. In this letter I have deemed it sufficient to give, first, a general view of the whole country claimed by the Menominies; describe the situation 401 of the *Green Bay settlement*, as a point from which we can understandingly approach the different boundary lines of the disputed territory, and then detail the particular facts relating to it which I have been able to collect by a careful and laborious examination. With these preliminary remarks, Sir, I submit, with due respect, the following Report for your consideration; and request that it may be laid before the Senate of the United States in any manner or form you may deem most advisable.

The Country claimed by the Menominie Tribe of Indians lies within the bounds of the contemplated Territory of Huron.¹ As an agricultural and commercial place it may be with safety said, that it will occupy the most central and important part of the new Territory, and must naturally be the first to attract the attention of emigrants intending to engage in those pursuits. It is bounded on the East by Lake Michigan—on the South by the head waters of Winnebago Lake and the Rocky [Rock] and Manaywaukee [Milwaukee] rivers—on the West, by the Wisconsin, Chippewa and Black rivers—and on the North, by the Chippewa Country, in the direction of Lake Superior. The quantity of Land within these boundaries may be fairly estimated at *eight millions of acres* ! And, I believe it is not presuming too much to say, at least two thirds of it is fit for cultivation, and offers attractions to the Agriculturist rarely to be found in any country. The *soil* presents every indication of fertility—it appears generally to be a mixture of brown loam and marl; is very deep, and wherever its properties have been tested has been found uncommonly productive. The whole country is bountifully supplied with water from Lakes, rivers and innumerable small creeks;

Library of Congress

and, with the exception of several extensive and valuable prairies, it is covered with a heavy growth of Oak, Hickory, 27

1 For several years, James Duane Dory attempted to have the "Territory of Huron" created by Congress, with Green Bay as its capital; he had previously suggested the name "Territory of Chippewau;" later the name "Wisconsin" was substituted. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, pp. 380, 465, 470; and xii, pp. 220–246.— Ed.

402 Maple, Cherry, Birch, Lynn, Bass, Cotton, Butternut, Elm, Ash and Pine Timber. Indeed, it abounds with all kinds of wood of the best quality, and for Cabinet and other work, except the Black Walnut and Chestnut; which is very scarce, if to be found at all, in the country. The hydraulic privileges are very valuable; there are some of the finest mill sites on several streams emptying into Green Bay, that I have ever seen, both as it regards economy in constructing the necessary improvements, and the ease with which they can be approached from the surrounding country. The *Seasons* are warm enough for all kinds of Agricultural purposes, and the climate is remarkably healthy.

Green Bay is a handsome sheet of water, and is, generally, very deep—it is *ninety* miles in length and from *five* to *twenty five* in depth. It may be properly called an estuary, for Fox River, which it receives at its head, or southwestern extremity, and then runs a course northeastwardly to Lake Michigan, which it enters about one hundred and twenty miles south of Mackinac, and about two hundred and fifty miles nearly north from Chicago, This bay is navigable for steamboats and schooners of any tonnage that can be brought on the Lakes, to the entrance of Fox River, and up this river about six miles. There are a number of valuable Islands on the Bay, and it abounds in harbors equal to any between this place and Buffalo, in ease of access and safe anchorage. The channel is wide and strongly marked, until near the mouth of Fox River, where it becomes somewhat crooked, but can always be found without difficulty or the least danger.

"Green Bay settlement," in the township of Green Bay, is the seat of Justice for Brown county; and is situated immediately at the head of the Bay, in 44° 40 m of N. latitude, and

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87° of W. longitude. It embraces a tract of country, commencing at a point about half a mile above the entrance of Fox River, and extends up and along the river on both sides, six miles, running back on each side, three miles, so as to form a square containing a township or twenty three thousand and forty acres of land. This tract has been confirmed 403 to individual claimants, under Acts of Congress, passed in the years 1820, '23 & '28. There are about an hundred dwelling houses scattered over the settlement, nearly an equal number on each side of Fox River, which runs a N. E. course through the centre of it, but none of them are above four hundred yards distant from its margin. The land is not cleared at any point more than half a mile back from the river, and I have estimated the whole quantity of land cleared and under any kind of cultivation within the confirmed claims, at *two thousand five hundred acres!* The remainder is a wilderness.—There is, perhaps, the greatest quantity of land under cultivation on the West side of the River, and certainly the best crops are raised on that side. But the farming is entirely different from what I have been accustomed to see—the inhabitants are principally Canadians, who came to the country as Traders or Voyageurs, and are but indifferent cultivators of the soil. The few American citizens located here, have heretofore, generally, been engaged in the Indian Trade and mechanical occupation. None of them until within the last two years had turned their attention to farming; but they have already received convincing proofs of the fertility of the soil, and its adaptation to the growth of wheat, rye, corn and clover; as well as to vegetation of every description. *Vegetables* of a root kind, especially potatoes, beets and turnips, are produced in surprising quantities; and I do not believe they are equalled in size or quality, by the growth of Pennsylvania or New Jersey.

There is but one Grist Mill in the Menominie country, or indeed within several hundred miles of it; and it is so badly constructed that it can do but little business. It is located eighteen miles above the settlement, on Fox River, at the rapids called the “Grand Kaccalin;”¹ and is on a confirmed claim, occupying near a mile square, which is the only claim confirmed to citizens in the Menominie country, beside those I have described as constituting the Green Bay settlement. In consequence of being thus destitute of the

1 The present Kaukauna.— Ed.

404 means of having their grain manufactured into flour, the great bulk of the wheat raised by the inhabitants, is used for feeding cattle, and the flour required for the sustenance of the population is principally brought from the mills in Ohio, bordering on Lake Erie. The quantity of this article consumed here annually, does not fall short of fifteen hundred barrels, exclusive of the supply imported for the use of the garrison, and for the Indian Department.

Fort Howard is located on the best land of Fox River, less than a mile above its entrance into Green Bay. It occupies an elevated and commanding position; which, by a curve in the course of the river below gives it entire command over the pass by water to and from the settlement. The ground occupied by the Garrison is within the boundary of the confirmed claims, and the Fort stands about half a mile above the lower line of this boundary.

The law of 1828, confirming these claims,¹ has a proviso reserving a quantity of land sufficient for military purposes, and the surveyor employed by the Government to fix the boundary lines did not make a survey of the land in the vicinity of the Fort, in consequence of instructions to that effect, founded upon the above reservation. Notwithstanding the prohibitions of the law, however, plainly as they are expressed

¹ The early French squatted upon their claims at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, as elsewhere in the Western country. When American military commandants came to occupy the forte there, these original settlers were sometimes evicted, especially at Prairie du Chien. Congress being appealed to, passed acts for their relief, under which officers of the land department reported upon the private claims. In 1796, the Jay treaty provided for confirmation of claims to farm and village lots, after proper examination into the equity thereof. In the War of 1812–15, many of the French took sides with the English, and forfeited their rights. But in 1820, when the first serious examination was made by Isaac Lee, of Detroit, sent out for the purpose, all those who had continuously occupied claims since 1796 were confirmed in their possession, the government overlooking the offense

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of the British sympathizers. Lee's examination was followed in 1828, by a detailed survey, by Lucius Lyon, United States deputy surveyor for Michigan Territory. See details of these transactions, with citations to acts of Congress, in *History of Crawford and Richland Counties* (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1884), pp. 264–279.— Ed.

405 pressed, the inhabitants erected numerous small buildings on this reservation, which have generally been converted into grog shops, and are a very great annoyance to the Garrison. This subject, I have understood, has frequently been urged upon the attention of the Department, and I think it worthy of serious consideration. I have now given you a concise geographical sketch of the Menominie country, generally, and have attempted to add a statistical view, more particularly, of the Green Bay settlement.

I have thought this necessary to enable those who may examine the provisions of the Menominie Treaty, to form a more correct idea, and perhaps a better estimate, of the country which is ceded to the United States, and of the advantages offered to those for whom it provides, than if I confined my description alone to the ceded territory. History has yet taken but little notice of this country, or I should not have presumed to adopt this course; nor would I have done so if this communication was intended for your consideration only, as I am aware that your knowledge of the country is too accurate to be improved by any history of mine. I will now proceed to exhibit to you the present location of the New York Indians, who have removed upon the land they claim from the Menominies, under their Treaty stipulations of 1821 and '22; and will then give you a particular description of the country provided for them, by the late Treaty, in accordance with my instructions.

The whole number of Notaways or New York Indians, men, women, children, who have emigrated to this country, and are now settled here, is according to their own estimate, *five hundred and ninety-eight* , exclusive of about twenty Brothertown Indians who came here this fall. Of this number, the Oneidas claim 365; and the Stockbridges, including some Munces who have joined their tribe, claim 232; these, with the Rev. Eleazer Williams,¹ a

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half breed of the St. Regis Tribe, compose the body of the New York Indians settled in the Menominie country, who have occupied no

1 See Wight's "Eleazer Williams," *Parkman Club Papers*, No. 7; also, numerous accounts in previous volumes of *Wis. Hist. Colls.*— Ed.

406 ordinary share of the attention and *funds* of the government for the last ten years. At least two hundred and ten of the above number, too, came here during the summer of 1830. The Stockbridge Tribe is located on the east bank of Fox River, at the Grand Reservation—their improvements commence about the middle of the rapids, and extend up and along the river to the Little Chute, distance of about three miles; and there is one building commenced on the margin of the river, two miles above the Chute. They have erected altogether about forty five buildings, intended as dwelling houses—generally very ordinary log huts, except the Mission house,¹ which is a large frame building, situated on the bank of the Kaccalin. They have also erected and in operation, at this end of the settlement, a very indifferent Saw Mill, which does but little business, although water privileges in the vicinity are immensely valuable. In addition to these improvements they have a school house and smith shop. I have not accurately ascertained the quantity of land these Indians have under cultivation, but it is evident that they farm better than the French inhabitants at Green Bay, and raise much better crops. They have satisfactorily established the character of the soil and climate for the growth of winter wheat, by the excellence of their crop the last season.

1 See papers relative to the Stockbridge mission, *ante*.— Ed.

The principal Oneida settlement is on the West side of the Fox River, at Duck Creek, a fine stream emptying into Green Bay three miles below fort Howard. Their improvements are spread over an extent of a mile in width. They have two hundred and thirty seven acres of land cleared and under cultivation; upon which are erected thirty three small log dwelling houses. They have also a Saw-mill, which has just been finished and put in operation; and the frame of a grist mill, with a very neat church and school house commenced. The saw

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mill is the lowest, or most northerly improvement in the settlement—it is about eight miles above the mouth of Duck Creek, which at this place runs nearly a parallel course, with Fox River, and their 407 settlement is about the same distance from Fort Howard in a N. W. direction. The land cultivated by the Oneidas at this place is of the best quality. The soil is a dark loam mixed with limestone gravel, is very deep and has proved itself exceedingly productive. They have not yet raised any wheat or rye, but their corn, potatoes and turnip crops are excellent. Their crop of corn this season yielded fifteen hundred bushels. At this settlement there are 279 of the Oneida Tribe located—the remaining 86, are settled on the west side of the Fox river above the Little Chute, adjoining the Stockbridge settlement. They commenced their settlement at this place in the summer of 1830, and have now ten houses erected, scattered over a space of two miles along the margin of the river. The distance from this settlement to that on Duck Creek is at least twenty-four miles, and the Indians have but little intercourse with each other, although they have heretofore been considered as belonging to the same tribe. The majority of those settled near the Little Chute are *half negro* ,¹ and are connected by marriage with the Stockbridge Tribe with whom it is supposed they will shortly unite, and hence dissolve all connection with the Oneida Tribe.

1 An error.— Ed.

Eleazer Williams , the representative of the Regis Indians, has his location on the west side of the Fox river, at the Little Kaccalin, ten miles above Fort Howard. He is united by marriage, to a daughter of one of the French settlers at Green Bay; and when he happens to be in the country, which is very seldom, he resides principally at the house of his father-in-law, and rents his house at *Little Kaccalin* to a tenant. In this situation it is at present.

There has been no settlement made here by any of the New York Tribes, claiming under purchase made from the Menominies, other than those I have mentioned. About twenty of the Brothertown tribe arrived here this fall, and have commenced a settlement at the Little Kaccalin, on the east side of Fox river, although by going directly across the river, a

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distance less than two hundred yards, they could 408 have settled upon the land set apart for them by the Treaty made last winter,—I advised them to do so on account of their own comfort and safety, and strove to convince them that “their conduct in settling upon this land in direct opposition to the provisions of the Treaty, which had already received the sanction of the President, and had been laid before the Senate, would be construed as a disregard of the authority of the Government, and might be prejudicial to their interests. They replied, that they had their “ *own boundaries* , and would settle where they pleased on any land which had been obtained originally from the Menominies, by the New York Tribes, and which *they* afterwards had purchased.” They are now erecting huts at this place and appear determined to retain their position.

The principal Menomonie Chiefs have earnestly demanded the removal of the Brothertowns. They appeared much exasperated, at first, and it was with some difficulty they could be restrained from using force to remove the intruders. I assured the Menominies that the removal of the stranger Indians upon this land would not impair their treaty stipulations with the United States, nor diminish the kind feeling entertained toward them by the government, but that, should the Treaty be ratified by the Senate, all its provisions would be carried into effect. With this assurance the Chiefs left me apparently satisfied, although some of their finest sugar Camps are on the land occupied by the Brothertown Indians, which will be much injured if not entirely destroyed by their settlement.

Having now, sir, exhibited the *present* location and condition of the New York Tribes, who have emigrated to this country, in a manner which I trust will enable you to form a correct opinion relative to their change of position, by comparison; I will proceed to give you a description of the country provided by the Treaty for their permanent homes. The information I have the honor of communicating to you may be found deficient in geographical description, but I can vouch for its correctness, and I trust you will find it, intelligible.

The country allotted by the agreement between the United States and the Menominie Tribe for the New York Indians lies on the west side of the Fox River and Green Bay. It contains, as near as I can compute the quantity of land without a survey, *five hundred and seventy thousand* acres. The boundaries of this country, as defined by the Treaty, are pretty accurately laid down on the *map*, which will accompany this communication. The upper line at the “old mill dam,” near the head of Little Kaccalin is about eleven miles *above* Fort Howard. This is perhaps the most valuable mill site on Fox river,¹ not only on account of the powerful head of water which it commands, but in consequence of its being on the first rapids of any importance above the settlement, and nearest to the head of ship navigation. The line leaves the river at this place and runs back a N. W. course, forty miles, and thence a N. E. course about eight, miles to Oconto river; thence down the Oconto to its entrance into Green Bay, which is about *thirty two* miles *below* Fort Howard; thence up and long the shore of the bay and Fox river to the place of beginning. Thus, you will perceive that the country selected for the New York Indians, is in the immediate neighborhood of the Green Bay settlement, and borders on the Bay, and river upwards of forty miles, including the short distance occupied by the confirmed claims, and that reserved for military purposes. The country above the settlement bounding this tract, presents a picturesque, rich and inviting appearance. The banks are high, but easy of ascent, and contain building sites equal in beauty, and much resembling those of the Hudson River. In some places, the ground rises to an elevation of eighty feet above the surface of the water, and continues at the same elevation several miles back from the river, through fine oak openings and extensive natural meadows, perfectly level and of apparently the richest soil. About a mile *below* the “old mill dam,” or upper line of this tract, the high ground recedes several hundred yards from the river, along a distance of above half a mile, leaving

¹ See *ante*, pp. 11–13.— Ed.

Library of Congress

310 a fine, rich meadow on its bank, of several hundred acres. The house of Eleazer Williams, of the St. Regis Tribe, is erected on this meadow, and consequently, he has a territory of a *mile in width* between his location and the upper boundary line of the cession. This part of the country will be valuable to these Indians, not more on account of its advantages and desirable location, than to the excellence of the soil, and the ease and cheapness with which the finest farms can be cultivated.

The boundaries of the country provided for their future locations also entirely encompass the *Oneida settlement* on Duck Creek. The line, running back from the “old mill dam,” passes the settlement at least six miles west and south of the extreme point of their improvements, in this direction. This Tribe, therefore, surely ought not to complain of the location made by the Treaty, nor can I believe they would do so, if left to the exercise of their own judgment. The land on the borders of Duck Creek is of a superior quality. A high, limestone ridge passes through the settlement, dividing a small branch from the main waters of this creek, upon which the soil will compare for depth and richness with any land in the country. This ridge extends in a westerly direction, toward Wolf river, between the branches of Duck Creek, and has an extensive, fertile and beautiful valley on each side, which bears a heavy growth of valuable timber.

Where it crosses the upper line of the cession, N. W. from Little Kaccalin, it must be about ten miles from the river, and at a point opposite the Grand Kaccalin, the distance of the ridge from the river is about fifteen miles. The land in this direction rather improves in appearance, and I presume continues equally good for thirty or forty miles. Opposite the “Little Chute,” twenty miles back from Fox river, there is a delightful tract of country—the land inclines to a rolling cast, and is covered with red, white & black oak, and the most beautiful groves of sugar maple, without any under brush.

There are several strips of the land, occupying the intermediate space between Green Bay and Duck creek settlements, 411 that are low and marshy; and are so thickly covered with under brush as to render clearing very laborious. But, there is also within this space

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a large quantity of high rolling land of the richest soil; and one extensive ridge is covered with a grove of Pine trees, of a large and handsome growth, which from its location must soon be immensely valuable to the future owners of this country. *Duck Creek* at its mouth, is a still sluggish stream, about two hundred feet wide. The land in the vicinity, in consequence of the water from the Bay rising to its level, has a marshy appearance, and the soil in some places may be called alluvial; but the prairies thus formed have a luxuriant growth of fine grass and are very valuable. These and other prairies surrounding the Green Bay settlement, supply the inhabitants with all the hay they feed to their cattle. Between three and four miles above the mouth of Duck Creek, its waters become rapid, and the banks high, which character it retains until it passes far above the S. W. boundary of the country given to these Tribes. The bed of the creek is fiat limestone rock; and just below the Oneidas' mill it is covered with smooth limestone flags, five and six feet square, having the appearance of artificial preparation. The mill is erected on the east bank of the creek, and receives the water immediately from the dam through a wooden flume between thirty and forty feet in length. There are fine groves of Pine convenient to this mill on both sides of the creek; and the land is composed of a dark rich mellow soil along its margin, until within a mile and a half of Green Bay, where it becomes swampy. North of the Oneida settlement there are some cedar and tamarack swamps; and the land is not generally, perhaps, so good for agricultural purposes, as that in the immediate vicinity. But the fine streams of water to be found in approaching Oconto, affording the best of mill privileges, with the immense forests of white and yellow Pine on their margins, will render this portion of the country of great value to these Tribes, if they choose to avail themselves of the advantages thus offered. There are thousands of acres, forming 412 these prairies, covered with trees of a towering height and averaging from three to four feet in diameter.

Between Fort Howard and Oconto river there are beside Duck Creek, some considerable streams emptying into Green Bay. "Pa-shu-kee" or Goose Creek is the largest of these streams—and is twenty four miles below the Fort, and right above Oconto, by the course of the Bay. There is a saw mill on this stream, erected by a citizen of Green Bay,¹ about

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one mile and a half above its mouth, which is occupied at the will of the Government. A short distance above this mill there are fine oak springs, called the "Oak orchards" and a ridge of very rich land stretches from the creek toward Oconto. Near the mouth of the creek, at the Bay, there is a considerable tract of rich prairie land.

1 See *ante*, pp. 16, 17.— Ed.

The Oconto river is a large deep powerful stream, and bounds the country given to the New York Tribes on the north, about forty miles. At its mouth, or entrance into Green Bay, it is about two hundred yards wide. There is a bar extending across its entrance over which the water is only about three feet deep, but the channel can be cleared with very little trouble or expense, and after passing the bar into the river, the water is twelve feet deep. This depth continues for several miles, and the river can be navigated in high water with schooners of a hundred tons burden, a distance of ten or twelve miles. There are extensive prairies on both sides of this river, at its mouth, upon which grass of a remarkably nutritious quality grows very luxuriantly. The meadows on the upper side, which are within the Indian cession, contain probably two thousand acres, and must at once be very valuable for grazing or hay making. In the vicinity of these meadows, and a short distance up the Oconto, the ground is on a level with the Bay, and is wet and spongy; but it soon retrieves its character and rises into fine dry prairies, and high, rolling land, covered with a heavy growth of hard timber.

The first rapids on this river commence about fourteen miles above its mouth; and about ten miles further by the course of the stream, which is very serpentine, there are perpendicular falls of about *fifty feet*, over a ledge of limestone rocks extending across the river. The stream at this place is about seventy yards wide, and dashes with great impetuosity for a mile and a half below the falls. Immediately under the fall the water forms a whirlpool, in a basin, which is about twenty feet deep. The whole formation of this cataract, and the wild scenery surrounding it, presents a romantic and interesting appearance. There are exuberant groves of Maple and Beech in the neighborhood of

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these falls, which is the best evidence of the fertility of the soil; and a short distance below, on the south side of the mill, the Indians have Sugar Camps, at which they manufacture large quantities of sugar. Above the falls the water continues rapid through the whole distance, bounding the country of the New York Indians, and contains valuable mill privileges. The land is covered with a thriving growth of Oak, Beech and Maple, and some of the valuable Prairies I have already mentioned are convenient to these mill seats.

As near as I have been able to ascertain the position of this tract of country, without a survey, I am of the opinion that the upper boundary line, running back from the "old mill dam," at Little Kaccalin, will strike a point about two miles north of *Lake Shawano* ; and the distance from the lake to Oconto is about ten miles, in a N. E. course. There are three small lakes between Shawano and Oconto; one is called *Menominin* or Rice Lake, and is covered with the Rice peculiar to this climate, which is gathered in large quantities by the Menominies, and is used as a subsistence for head stuff. The distance from Lake Shawano S. W. to Wolf river, is about four miles by the course of a small stream navigable for canoes and light boats. Wolf river is a considerable stream, navigable for large boats, emptying into Fox river about twelve miles above its entrance into Winnebago Lake.

The above view of the country intended for the future home of the New York Indians, comprises all the information worth relating of which I am possessed. It is country of immense value. At least *two-thirds* of the land within its boundaries, is fit for cultivation, and equals in fertility of soil, advantageous location, and other substantial advantages, any country of equal extent ever occupied by these Tribes in the State of New York.

The country lying on the east side of the Fox river and Green Bay ceded by the Menominie Indians to the United States, is described by the Treaty as being within the following boundaries: "Beginning at the south end of Winnebago Lake, and thence running a S. E. course to Milwauky or Manaywaukee river; thence down said river to its mouth; thence North along the shore of Lake Michigan to the entrance of Green Bay, Fox river and

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Winnebago Lake to the place of beginning." A clause in the Article fixing this boundary, also cedes "all the islands on Green Bay and Fox river."

The southern extremity of Winnebago Lake, is, by a right line which would not vary more than a point or two from a due South course, about fifty five miles from Green Bay settlement. But by the course of Fox river and the lake at that point, it is seventy miles. I have no data by which to ascertain the distance from the end of Winnebago Lake, to where the boundary line defined by the Treaty would first touch Manaywaukee river, but suppose it to be about fifty miles; and it may probably be the same distance from this point to the entrance of the river into Lake Michigan. From the mouth of this river, to Chicago it is 90 miles, and by the shore of the Lake to the entrance of Green Bay, it is about one hundred and sixty miles. From this point, to the Green Bay settlement at a point opposite Fort Howard, it is ninety miles. In a direct line from this settlement to the nearest point on Lake Michigan, which would be running nearly a due east course, it is about thirty five miles. The quantity of land in this Peninsula I have estimated at *three millions of acres* !

Fox river is the largest and most important stream emptying into Green Bay. It contains numerous mill seats, which 415 must present splendid attractions to men of capital and enterprise, whenever the country is offered for sale. The fall in the river from the outlet of Winnebago Lake to Fort Howard, a distance of thirty-six miles, I have computed at one hundred feet; and I feel persuaded that it does not exceed this computation, although it was called 148 feet by one of the U. States Corps of Engineers, who took the level of the water in 1827. At the head of Green Bay settlement there is a sudden bend in the river, which changes its course for a short distance, at which a ledge of rocks extending across the bed of the river, formerly produced a considerable rapid at this place. It is called "*Rapide père*," or "Rapids of the Fathers,"¹ from the fact that the first French Missionaries, who came to this country fixed their residence at that place. The rise of the water from the Bay for the last few years, however, has overflowed these rapids so much that they are now scarcely perceptible, and the water is four feet in depth over the ledge of rocks.

1 The modern De Pere.— Ed.

There is very little current in the river, indeed, until we reach Little Kaccalin, where there is a very powerful rapid for a distance of about a mile, in which the fall is about five feet. Perhaps no place on the river is more desirable for a mill seat than the Little Kaccalin. It is so near the head of ship navigation that produce can be floated down without any risk and at a trifling expense. The country adjacent is very inviting to the agriculturalist, and only requires an opportunity to become speedily and thickly populated. The soil is very deep, has a dark loamy appearance, and can be very easily cleared and put under cultivation. There are several sugar camps in this neighborhood, where large quantities of sugar are manufactured from large and beautiful Maple groves. About five miles back from the river there is a dense forest of Pine; which from its convenience to this mill seat, will be of great value to an enterprising owner. From the "Little" to the "Grand Kaccalin," a distance of ten miles, the land retains the same character. 416 But, examining the country from the river, a traveler would be more favorably impressed with its appearance on the west than on the east side—there are fine openings in the wood, and more elevated and prominent situations exposed to view on the West than there are on the East bank, and this appearance continues to *Little Butte des Morts* a distance of fifteen miles above the Grand Kaccalin. But the quality of the land is equal, a little distance back from the river, the appearance and character of the country is superior on the East or U.S. side. There is a considerable fall in the river between the Little and Grand Kaccalin; which offers several fine mill seats;—Boats carrying ten tons, can go to the foot of the rapids of Grand Kaccalin, from Green Bay, but here the loading must be hauled over a portage of about a mile, to overcome the falls; and the rapids above, a distance of nine miles to the Grand Chute,¹ are so strong that the load has to be divided in several parcels and taken up at different times. There is a Menominie village at the foot of the Kaccalin, on the east side of the river, on a cleared piece of land containing about an hundred acres. The ground at this place has a gradual ascent from the river, until it attains an elevation of more than ninety feet, and appears to much advantage from the river. The timber continues of a fine growth in

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the rear of this village, and the Stockbridge Indians have proved the soil to be warm, rich and mellow, and exceedingly productive. I have already had occasion to speak of the valuable water power at this place, and need not again particularize it. There is an island, lying paralel with the course of this river, extending nearly along the whole length of the rapids, which compresses the quantity and force of the water, and thus enhances the value of the mill privileges, by saving much labor and expense in making the necessary improvements. The mill, belonging to the Stockbridge Indians, is erected on the east channel; and Mr. Grignon's mill, which I have introduced in the sketch of Green Bay

1 The modern Appleton.— Ed.

417 settlement, is on the West channel, or left side of the Island, descending the river.

In a straight line from the Grand Kaccalin to the nearest point on the north shore of Winnebago Lake, the distance is only about eight miles. This line passes through a rich and beautiful body of land, covered with Oak, Hickory, Beech, Maple and Bass wood, of a healthy growth; and the corner which it severs from the Peninsula, which is a large body of land, partakes of the same good character. In following the course of the river from the Grand Kaccalin to Winnebago Lake,.the distance is eighteen miles. It is three miles to the Little Chute, which produces a long and impetuous rapid, and contains several first rate mill seats. From the "Little" to the "Grand Chute" the distance is six miles. This chute has a perpendicular fall of about four feet over a fiat rock, extending in an oblique direction entirely across the river, a distance of about two hundred yards. The scenery is very fine at this place, and indeed along the whole course of the river. Some distance below the Chute there is a bold prominence at an angle in the river, which overlooks seventy miles of the rapids, which present an interesting and beautiful spectacle. At this chute, boats have to make another short portage of their loading, and it is with much labor that empty boats can be dragged over the falls.

Above the Chute the water immediately becomes deep, and the navigation is then uninterrupted to the Winnebago rapids, a distance of about eight miles. At the "Little Butte

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des morts,” six miles above the Grand Chute, the river expands into a small lake. The “Butte” is on the west side of the river; it is on a very handsome elevation, and from the centre of the mound there is a fine view down the river a considerable distance, and also of the Island near the foot of Winnebago Lake about two miles above. The general course of Fox river from this point to Green Bay is about N. E. It has a rocky foundation and is not in the least affected by the freshets; Winnebago Lake serves as a reservoir for the water from the mountains above, which 28 418 would otherwise swell the river. Hence it is manifest that dams can be constructed in Fox River, either for the purpose of improving the navigation or for military purposes, with great ease and economy.

Ascending from Little Butte the river deviates from its general course, and in coasting the island toward the entrance to the lake, which is three miles above the Butte, the course is nearly due east. This Island¹ is about a mile in length, and contains about four hundred acres of land, which for depth and richness of soil is equal to any in the Territory of Michigan. It is covered with a heavy growth of Hickory, Oak, Butter nut and Bass wood, with the exception of about forty acres at the upper end of the Island, which is a fine, clear field ready for the plough. The main channel of the river, ascending, is on the right or S. W. side of the Island, and enters the Lake on the West side, about two miles from its northern extremity. From this channel or *outlet* to the branch on the other side of the Island, at its mouth, the distance is about half a mile. “There are strong rapids on both sides of the Island, upon which are excellent sites for any kind of water works.” This valuable Island is within the United States purchase.

1 Doty's Island.— Ed.

Winnebago Lake is an uncommonly beautiful sheet of water, somewhat of an oval form, extending longitudinally from North to South, about thirty-five miles, and is from six to fifteen miles wide. There is only one island on this Lake² —it is about twelve miles above the outlet and nine below the entrance of Fox river, within two hundred yards of the West shore. There is a fine channel, between the Island (*which is highland rocky, containing*

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about twenty acres), and the main shore, which, hereafter, will furnish an important harbor for the vessels on the Lake. The country ceded to the United States, bordering this Lake on the north, east and south, is composed of the very best limestone land, and will be most likely to attract the attention of emigrants

2 Called "Garlic Island" by early white settlers, but now "Island Park."— Ed.

419 sooner than any other part of the ceded territory when the lands come into market. It holds an enviable position in the heart of a rich farming country, with the lead mines at hand on one side, and ship navigation on the other. There are several fine streams entering into the Lake, near its N. E. corner; and the soil in this vicinity, being a mixture of black and red loam and marl, possesses every indication of fertility. The mountain which extends nearly through the whole length of the Peninsula, occasionally approaches the east shore of the Lake along a distance of from ten to fifteen miles. The highest peak of this mountain, is in the vicinity of the land I have described at the N. E. corner of the Lake.

In examining this interesting part of the country, I was enabled by the sagacity of an Indian guide to reach the summit of this mountain, through a chasm in the rocks, and stood on the highest peak of the cliff, in a walk of less than mile from the margin of [the] Lake. This is called "Jackson Cliff"—it is about three hundred feet above the level of the Lake, and nothing can surpass the splendour of the view which it presents, over the rich valley and the waters below. I never saw land that presented stronger indications of fertility than the soil of this valley, and on the side of the mountain it is equally good. At an elevation of about one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the Lake, a fine *spring* of the best drinking water rises among the rocks; in the vicinity of which there is an extensive and luxuriant grove of Sugar Maple, some of the trees measuring three feet in diameter and having a body of equal size, at least thirty feet in heighth. This spring of water is called "Wolf Fountain," and is indeed a delightful spot. The land from the top of the mountain, inclining east, has a gradual descent, and bears ample evidence of being a deep, rich soil, every foot of which is susceptible of cultivation. The timber has the appearance of being young and thriving—it is chiefly Hickory, Oak, Beech and Maple, and is entirely clear

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of underwood. The ledge of limestone rocks extending along the mountain at this place is very valuable—immense quarries may be opened upon it, from which first rate stone can be obtained for building or making lime, with the greatest ease. This ledge, for a distance of about two miles, hangs over the rich valley of which I have just spoken, and overlooks thousands of acres of the finest land in the country. The land, stretching along the whole length of the Lake on the East shore to the Southern extremity, possesses the same fertilizing qualities.

About three miles from the N. E. corner of the Lake, the mountain recedes from the shore until it attains a distance of three miles, forming a beautiful valley of the same width and about twelve miles in length, covered with a heavy forest of Oak, Hickory, Maple, Beech and Butter-nut trees, This valley and mountain terminate in this direction, within fifteen miles of the S. E. corner of the Lake, in extensive dry Prairies of the choicest soil. There is a considerable indentation in the land at this place; and turning the last angle of the mountain ascending the Lake, these rich plains, covered with herbage of a luxuriant growth, have the appearance of a highly cultivated country. The Indians call these Prairies “Wase-skis-sink,” which signifies “Shining Prairies.” We call them “Cass Plains.”¹ On the margin of the Lake, about the centre of these plains, in front, the Menominies have a large village, called *Calumet*; the chief of which, “Little Wave,” is one of the Menominie Chiefs who signed the Treaty at Washington last winter. *Mana-too-woc* on *Devil's den river*, rises in several fine springs, about six miles in a direction E. S. E. from this village, and increases into a large and rapid stream of water emptying into Lake Michigan. In approaching the head of this river from Calumet village the whole extent of the plains is traversed. They contain, at a moderate estimate *fifteen thousand acres*; and are divided into fields, with surprising regularity, of about two hundred acres each, by clusters of oak and Hickory surrounding them, so arranged that each enclosure thus formed, appears, in viewing it from the centre, to be isolated

1 Presumably after Lewis Cuss, Superintendent of Indian Affairs.— Ed.

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421 from the rest. I passed over these plains in August, when they were covered with tall grass and wild flowers, which, at a little distance, gave them the appearance of rich farms, in a high state of cultivation; and upon close inspection, they losing nothing of their beauty. The soil is of the very best quality for successful cultivation, and every acre is ready for the plough of the farmer, without any preparatory labor except fencing.

From Calumet village to the head or southern extremity of the lake the distance is probably sixteen miles. The chief, Little Wave, accompanied me to that point, for the purpose of designating the upper boundary of the Menominie cession. There is a fine stream emptying into the head of the Lake, called Fon du Lac river. It is navigable for heavy boats about three miles. The water on the flats, near the mouth of the river, is rather shoal, in some places not more than three feet deep; but after passing over the bar it is ten feet deep, and continues nearly the same depth about two miles up the river, when it gradually becomes shoal. In ascending this river from the mouth, the course is nearly south, for a distance of about three miles, when it inclines more to S.E. The river along this distance is the dividing line between the Menominies and Winnebagoes, but the line here leaves this river and runs a south eastwardly course to Manaywaukee river, bounding the country of the Menominies on the south. The land lying to the West and South west, between this boundary of the Menominies and Fox River, is claimed by the Winnebagoes as far up as Lake Apachaway [Puckawa] or the lower line of the purchase made by *Judge Atwater* and others in 1829.¹

¹ Referring to the treaty with the Winnebagoes, conducted at Prairie du Chien, Aug. 1, 1829. The United States commissioners were Gen. John McNeil, Col. Pierre Menard, and Caleb Atwater.— Ed.

The lines defined by the Menominie Treaty, fixes the southerly boundary of their cession to the U.S. immediately at the head of Winnebago Lake, and thence running a southeasterly direction, whereas, according to the description given on the spot, by the Menominie Chief, and concurring 422 testimony subsequently received, the line should extend up and along

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this river as I have above stated, about three miles, and then change its course to S.E. I marked a tree at the mouth of Fond du lac river, which according to the words of the Treaty, would be the S. W. boundary of the purchase. It is an Elm tree, with three forks, standing alone on the margin of the river. But, a prefatory clause in the article defining the boundaries, declares, that the Menominie Nation “cede and forever relinquish to the United States, *all* their country on the south east side of Winnebago Lake, Fox river and Green Bay,” thus evidently showing that they intended to convey all their land in this direction. If the government, however, does not put this construction upon the language of the Treaty, there can be an arrangement made without difficulty with the Menominies for this corner of their territory. The difference in the quantity of land, acquired by taking the boundary of the purchase as including “ *all* their land” or the imaginary line fixed by the Treaty, would perhaps be *thirty thousand acres* , and certainly, from the circumstances of its being directly at the head of Winnebago Lake, where the great roads from Chicago, from the Mississippi, by the way of Galena, and through the mining country, and also by way of Fort Winnebago, will most likely intersect this water, it is [a] highly important part of the purchase.

There is an immense tract of rich meadow land, at the south end of Winnebago Lake, extending from *Fond du Lac* , a width of two and three miles, in a S. E. direction to the foot of a high mountain, a distance of perhaps seven or eight miles. The country between this place and where the line will probably intersect Manaywaukee river, is generally very fertile, well watered by the waters of Rocky river and various smaller streams, and contains a sufficient quantity of timber of the best kind and largest growth. The Indians have marked the land bordering on Manaywaukee river, as being of a superior quality by the name they have given the stream. “Manaywaukee” signifies “scarce a good land.” Its interpretation into our language means “ *the river of good land* .” The mill privileges on the river are very line, and the timber on its border is hickory, Oak, Hard Maple, Beech, and some Black Walnut. The whole extent of country between Milwaukee and Manatoowoc rivers, is represented as being equal in value to that i have just described.

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From the mouth of Milwaukee or *Manaywaukee* , to the mouth, or entrance into Lake Michigan, of Manatoowoc river, the distance is probably seventy miles. Between these waters, there are a number of streams emptying into the Lake—the principal ones are *Sock*, *Bark*, *Shebowegan* and *Pigeon* rivers. The *Shebowegan* is a very considerable stream, and runs through a valuable part of the country.

I have not obtained any information respecting the land bordering Lake Michigan, from Manatoowoc to the entrance of Green Bay, upon which I dare place sufficient reliance to attempt a particular description of it. There can be but little doubt, however, judging from the character of the adjoining country, but that it is of a good quality. About thirty miles below Manatoowoc the “Three rivers” empty into the Lake, through one mouth, which will doubtless be a place of some importance when the country populates. There are several valuable fisheries on the coast, where the celebrated white fish of this country are caught, in great numbers; but unfortunately there have been but few harbors for vessels found on the coast.

The termination of the Peninsula at the entrance of Green Bay into the Lake, presents a high bluff of rocks, and forms an angle, which by taking the lake for a right line, may be called a mixed angle; and some distance above the *detour* , fronting the Bay, this cliff or bluff is upwards of a hundred feet high. The nearest channel to the main land, turning the point of the Peninsula from the Lake into Green Bay, is known to mariners by the name of *Death's door passage* . It received this name, as an Indian tradition informs us, in consequence of a circumstance occurring many years ago, by which a large body of Indians were lost near the bluff of rocks projecting over the Lake at this point. There was and is still a table in the Lake almost immediately 424 under the bluff, presenting a face of solid rock perhaps thirty feet square. A band of Indians in canoes, on their way to some of the French Trading posts, halted at this place for the purpose of resting and taking some refreshment, and while seated on their stone table, which then projected about three feet above the surface of the water, a storm arose suddenly, which swept over the rock a tremendous sea, and dashed their canoes to pieces. The bluff of rocks was too steep

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to scale, and the poor creatures, having no other means of escape, but trusting to the waves to drive them ashore at some distance from the fatal spot, nearly all perished. On the face of the rocks fifteen or twenty feet above the surface of the water, there are figures of Indians and Canoes painted Indian fashion, which must have been done with much difficulty, and by the help of scaling ladders, during a dead calm on the Lake.

From the point of the Peninsula up the shore of Green Bay, it is about forty miles to Sturgeon Bay, a considerable sheet of water which reaches across the Peninsula about ten miles, leaving a portage between its extreme point and Lake Michigan of about two miles. This Bay at its mouth is about five miles wide. The land on both sides of it is very fertile, and a high ledge of limestone rocks terminate on its S. W. shore. The first Island, below Fort Howard, is opposite the mouth of Sturgeon Bay. It is called Green Island, and contains about a hundred acres of excellent limestone land, partly covered with a heavy growth of Timber. The Indians have fine plantations of corn on this Island. The next Island below, on Green Bay, is called Chamber's Island, which is about five miles in length, and perhaps a mile and a half in width; and is also composed of the best quality of soil. Indeed the Islands below, which are very numerous, are generally valuable. There are some parts of the main land between Sturgeon Bay and Lake Michigan, near the point at the entrance of the Bay, which may be called broken land, but there is a very extensive body of first rate land in the triangularly formed tract cut off by Sturgeon Bay. About seven miles 425 above this Bay there is another basin, called "Little Sturgeon Bay," which is probably eight miles in circumference. There is also a ledge of rocks approaches the shore of this Bay, and rises into a considerable bluff near its mouth. The land extending back and in the vicinity of this Bay is also very fertile, and is well timbered. Both big and little Sturgeon Bays possess many fascinations which must attract the notice of men of enterprise and capital, when the land is offered for sale by the government. They contain fine harbors, and, especially Big Sturgeon Bay, will be found a commodious and beautiful Port. They are nearly surrounded by a country of the richest soil, watered by numerous springs from the mountain, a short distance back, and the best stone that can be required for building, may be had in any

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quantities, in the immediate neighborhood; as well as wood, of the best quality and growth of the country.

The distance from Little Sturgeon Bay to Fort Howard is about thirty five miles, and the country above increases in beauty. About twelve miles below the Fort, there is a very conspicuous promontory, called the *Red Banks* ¹ — they are, at the highest point, about a hundred feet above the level of the Bay. The ground on these banks presents the appearance of having once been under cultivation, probably by the early French settlers; and one place evidently bears vestiges of fortifications of some kind. I have not heard these appearances accounted for by the Indians or the present French settlers. The ground from the summit of these banks, gradually descends in going back from the

¹ See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ii, pp. 491–494; iii, pp. 203, 204; xiii, pp. 457, 458, 466, for Indian legends of the Red Banks. Indian earthworks were found in considerable numbers at the Red Banks, by the first white settlers; but the erosion of the face of this considerable cliff of clay has been so great that all have disappeared save a faint trace on the southern approach. Red Banks is now occupied by numerous summer cottages, owned by citizens of Green Bay, the settlement being indifferently known as “Benderville” and “Kish-ke-kwan-te-no”—the latter being supposed to mean, in the Menomonee tongue, “sloping to the cedars;” in the rear of the cliff is a cedar swamp.— Ed.

426 Bay, and at the foot of the mountain about two miles from the shore, there is some of the most beautiful and rich bottom land in the country, well watered with numerous never failing springs, rising in the mountain, The soil generally, at this part of the purchase has a red loamy appearance, and is deep and very rich. This appearance and quality extends across the mountain in the direction of Lake Michigan. The high ground at the Red Banks breaks off suddenly, after hanging over the Bay along a distance of about half a mile, and forms a cove at their lower extremity which affords an excellent harbor. The water is ten feet deep, within fifty yards of the shore; and the mountain at this point approaches within half a mile of the margin of the Bay; leaving a fertile valley between of considerable length.

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About seven miles below the Red Banks, there is another recess in the land continuing a distance of probably three miles, along which is a bold, pebbly shore, the banks rising from three to six feet above the level of the Bay. Near the centre of this recess there is a small stream of water gushing from the forest into the Bay, which is called Red River, from the circumstance, I presume, of the water heaving a remarkably reddish appearance. About seven hundred yards above the mouth of this stream following its course over a bed of rocks, there is a natural *cascade*, over which this stream falls, perpendicularly, about thirty-five feet. This sheet of water is about twenty feet in width, and first strikes a solid rock, and then bounds over a space of about five feet more into a basin, beautifully formed, about thirty feet in circumference; and in the centre, where the water appears as clear as crystal, it is four feet deep. The water is very cold and delicious. The space immediately occupied by the cascade is probably one hundred and fifty feet in circumference; and may truly be called a lovely spot. The walls or bastions supporting it, are composed of rock, arranged in horizontal strata with surprising regularity. On the east side of the cascade there are natural stairs, leading by a gradual and safe ascent to 427 the level above; and on every side there are large trees standing on the brink of the precipice. On the east and west side of the cascade are several pyramids formed of solid rock, standing entirely isolated. After the water leaves the basin, a short distance, it disappears under the rocky bed of the creek, but rises again about one hundred yards below, and flows into the Bay, as I have already stated, a rapid and handsome stream of water. There is a beautiful cove below the cascade, about a hundred and fifty yards, of an oval shape, nearly surrounded by high banks, which contains about twenty acres of the richest land, and is covered with a grove of Oak, Maple and Butter-nut trees, of a vigorous growth. The ground above the cascade has a fine elevation, and the soil has the appearance of great fertility in every direction.

In taking a N. W. course from the cascade to the Bay, the distance in a straight line, is something above five hundred yards, and passes through a dense forest of very large trees, consisting chiefly of Oak, Maple, Beech and Bass wood, until within about seventy

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five yards of the shore of the Bay, when the timber changes into a very handsome pine grove. There is an elevation within a few yards of the Cascade from which a slight view of the Bay can be obtained through a vista in the forest, and by opening an avenue from this point to the margin of the water, through the Pine grove, a splendid prospect would be formed.

There is a small settlement of French and half breeds,¹ above the Red Banks on the Bay, and six miles below the Fort, who have cleared and cultivated several hundred acres of land; which is the only white settlement on this Peninsula, outside of the confirmed claims. Between this settlement, and the "Green Bay settlement" there is a very extensive prairie, which is very valuable as a meadow, on account of its convenience to these settlements. —The Mountain or ledge of rocks, which extends from the east side of Winnebago Lake the whole length of the Peninsula to Green Bay, approaches this settlement at the nearest point,

1 Bay Settlement.— Ed.

428 about east, within a distance of six miles. The country filling the intermediate space is rather low and level; but the soil is very fertile and productive. In running a course about S. E. from this place to the mouth of Manaywaukee river at Lake Michigan, the country is just sufficiently undulating to make it a desirable farming country, and give power to the numerous streams with which it abounds, for the purposes of draining or forming valuable mill seats. The land is unquestionably of the most fertile quality. In a direction east from the Little Kaccalin about eight miles, there is a large body of delightful land. There are numerous streams rising at the foot of the mountain near this place, the banks of which at some places rise to a height of seventy and eighty feet, and the waters become very rapid. On the margins of these streams there are the finest groves of Sugar Maples. They unite into one stream, a few miles below this place, and form considerable water, called *Devil's River*,¹ which passes the settlement in the rear, at a distance of about three miles, running nearly parallel with Fox river; but forms a curve below and empties into this river opposite Fort Howard. Devil's River is navigable for large vessels two or three miles above

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the mouth. There is a fine stream enters it on the north side, about two miles above its mouth, called *Hell Creek* ; upon which a saw mill has been commenced this summer, within three hundred yards of its mouth, and is now nearly finished. The only other creek of any consequence emptying into Fox river, from this Peninsula, near to the settlement, is *Plum Creek* which rises also at the foot of the mountain, and empties into Fox river, some distance above Little Kaccalin.

1 Now East River.— Ed.

I have now, Sir, laid before you a view of the country purchased by the United States from the Menominie Tribe of Indians pursuant to my instructions. I have severely felt my incapacity for the task assigned me, and must crave your indulgence for the tedious monotony of my descriptions. If the Senate can extract any useful information from them I shall feel amply repaid for all the pains and 429 labor I have been at to collect materials for a faithful history. I feel deeply anxious for the prosperity of this country, which cannot advance a single step so long as it is distracted by the dispute between the Indians; and, believing that you feel an equal interest in the subject, I will venture to introduce a few more facts which will go to show how vitally important the provisions of the Menominie Treaty are to the very existence of the contemplated Territory of Huron.

I beg leave first to call your attention to the Territorial Bill which passed the H. of R. of the United States, during the session of 1827–'28: and also to the boundaries established by a similar Bill, which has been reported in the House of Representatives, on the 6th of January, 1830, by Mr. Clark, from the Committee on Territories. The 13th Section of this Bill enacts: “ *That the seat of Government of the Territory of Huron, shall be established at the village of Menominie¹ on the Fox river:*” and this “village of Menominie” is in the heart of Green Bay settlement, on the east side of the river. Now the original claim set up by the New York Indians embraces all the Menominie country on both sides of Fox river, and Green Bay, from Winnebago Lake to Lake Michigan. Thus, you will perceive, that if the legality of this claim be admitted by government, and the Bill organizing the new

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Territory should pass, with its present provisions, the territorial limits, surrounding the *seat of government, will be confined to six miles square, the extent of the present confirmed claims* ! The Government cannot have correct information on this subject, or surely Congress would not pass a Bill, forming a new Territory under such circumstances, but would await the decision of a question so important to the interests of the new Territory, and which decision might so materially change the operations of the Bill.

1 Menomoneeville (or Shantytown), a portion of Green Bay, platted in 1829. See map in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xiv, p. 430.— Ed.

The New York Tribes pretend to claim as an agricultural people, and declare that they “did not purchase from the 430 Menominies for the purpose of speculation, but to procure a home for themselves and their posterity.” If this be true, government cannot obtain an acre of Land within seventy miles of the seat of the Territorial government, and the passes to it, from the Mississippi above, and the Lakes below, will be through an Indian country. The Menominies, stript of the largest portion of their country by the New York Tribes, will have no more land to sell; and thus, this extensive, fertile and delightful country, *worth several millions of dollars* , will be lost to the government, and its rich prospects of soon becoming a flourishing agricultural and commercial country, entirely blighted.

I have given you a full account of the nature and extent of the claims set up by the New York Indians, in my report of the 16th of August, to which, I now respectfully refer you. That communication embodies all the facts of the case, and adduces all the testimony relied upon by the several parties. The different *claims* and *offers* , made at various times; with the present locations of the New York Tribes, and the country provided for their future homes by the late Treaty, are delineated on the Map which I will forward with this communication. This map is not as accurate or descriptive, as I could wish it; but there is no material error, and it gives a correct general view of the position of the country. Any difficiency or error in the Map or in this Report, may be supplied by Col. Robert Irwin, Hon. James D. Doty and Morgan L. Martin, Esq., of this place, who will be at Washington during

Library of Congress

the ending session of Congress. To these gentlemen I respectfully refer you, also, on the subject of the claims of the New York Indians.

I conceive it proper, although these claims are made the subject matter of another report, to introduce them in this communication, under the various shapes they have assumed since the commencement of the dispute. The country claimed by the New York Tribes, by virtue of their arrangements with the Menominies, concluded in 1821 & 1822, contains *six million seven hundred and twenty thousand acres of land*. These claims were immediately contested by the Menominies, 431 and the Tribes were, for the first time cited to appear before Commissioners in 1827, at Little Butte des Morts.¹ At this Council the New York Tribes refused to make any compromise of their demands with the U.S. Commissioners. Another Council was held at Green Bay, in August 1830,² for the sole object of settling this difficulty. At this Council the New York Tribes agreed to settle the matter by accepting “of a tract of country traversed by Fox River, having a perpendicular width of twenty seven miles, and extending to the N. W. thirty miles, and S. E. as far as the Menominies' possessions extend; this tract would occupy both sides of Fox river, from the rapids of Winnebago Lake to a point some distance below the Little Kaccalin, thus including *all the water privileges, and would contain at least one million of acres!*”

1 Treaty concluded with the Chippewas, Menomonees, and Winnebagoes, at Butte des Morts, Aug. 11, 1827, by Lewis Cass and Thomas L. McKenney.— Ed.

2 See “McCall's Journal,” *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, pp. 170–215.— Ed.

As a reply to this proposal the Menominies offered them a tract of land on the west side of Fox river, extending from the head of the Rapids of Grand Kaccalin, to the Little Butte des Morts, and running back thirty miles, which tract contains *one hundred and forty four thousand acres*. This offer being refused, the Commissioners attempted to effect a compromise by offering the Stockbridge Tribe a tract on the east side of Fox river, at Grand Kaccalin, containing six thousand acres! And to the Brothertown Tribe, a

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tract, commencing on the same side of the river about five miles below, at Plumb creek, and running down to Little Kaccalin; containing twenty thousand acres! To the residue of the Tribes they offered a tract, of a triangular shape, on the west side of Fox river, containing two hundred and fifty thousand acres! Both parties rejected this proposition of the Commissioners.

The present arrangement between the United States and the Menominie Tribe, gives the New York Indians *five hundred and twenty thousand acres* , in one tract, on the west side 432 of Fox river which includes all the improvements on that side of the river, and possesses local advantages equal to any in the country. This location is certainly preferable to any heretofore offered them; and is far more valuable, both on account of the quantity of land it contains and the quality of the soil and timber.

The price, paid in goods by the New York Tribes, was *five thousand dollars* . For this sum they will now receive, under the sanction of the government 570,000 acres of land; which will be at a price less than one cent per acre!!! Can there be *hardship* or *injustice* inflicted upon these Tribes by such a bargain? But, suppose they could be confirmed in their original claim, they would then have paid the Menominie Tribe *less than one mill per acre* for their land; and this, too, for a country containing upwards of *six millions of acres* ! Would this be dealing fairly with the poor Menominies? And would their government be acting the part of a faithful guardian of these people, if it would sanction so gross an imposition practised upon them? Reason, justice and common sense, will answer in the negative.

In making these remarks I disclaim entertaining the slightest unfriendly feeling toward these Tribes. On the contrary, I claim to be their friend, and have done everything within my power, since I have resided here, to promote their *true* interest. But my advice, having no *interested* motive to flavor it, has been found unpalatable, and I have been prescribed as being unfriendly to these people.

Library of Congress

The number of Indians in the State of New York, including those who have removed to this country, does not, according to their own estimate, exceed six thousand. It is very evident, therefore, that the quantity of land provided for them by this Treaty, will be sufficient for all their purposes as an agricultural people, for the next half century. Even if they should all consent to remove to this country, which is by no means certain, they ever intended to do, there can be *one hundred* acres allotted to each soul out of this tract. But, when they come to settle upon their country, if they should desire to exchange some of their land 433 lying along their northerly boundary, for a location further south, I presume the government can procure an extension of the purchase from the Menominies in a direction S. W. from the upper boundary of the tract given to these Tribes, by the Treaty.

The Menominies have selected the location, upon which *they* desire their improvements authorized by the Treaty, to be made. This location is at the Big Butte des Morts, on the Fox river, about twelve miles above its entrance into Winnebago Lake. It is a judicious selection; being on a considerable elevation, rising gradually from the river, and presenting a healthy and beautiful appearance. The soil has the appearance of being very fertile, and easily cultivated. Their settlement I presume, will extend along the prairies some distance back from Winnebago Lake in the direction of Fox river below the lake; and their mills will probably be erected on the river below, unless a more convenient site be found on Wolf river, of which I am not informed. Fox river, between the Butte and its entrance into Winnebago, is literally covered with rice; its course is nearly due east, and the channel in most places is narrow. About six miles below the Butte the river opens into a very pretty lake, probably eight miles in circumference, called "Lake Wing."

From the entrance of Fox river into Winnebago Lake, to the southerly extremity of the Lake at Fond du lac river, the distance is about fifteen miles, and the course S. E. The country bordering this Lake between these rivers, is claimed and occupied by Winnebagoes. The land that I examined on the margin of the Lake equals any in the vicinity of Fond du lac, in fertility — and there [are] several bold and beautiful points of land, with ten feet [of] water

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within a few yards of the shore. This tract, judging from its location, I am induced to think is of very little importance to this Tribe; and if their title was extinguished by the United States, and the Menominee Treaty ratified, the government would have the disposal of the whole country from the Lake by the way of Green Bay to the Mississippi. 29

434

The distance from Green Bay settlement to Big Butte des Morts by the way of the river and Lake is twenty miles, but it can be travelled by land within a distance of fifty miles. The road crosses Fox river at Rapids des pere, at the head of the settlement and keeps on the West bank of the river near the margin, to the Little Butte des Morts. The course of the stream changes at this place; and the path leaves the river, and pursues a course about S. W. to the Big Butte, which is only about fifteen miles from this point by the course of the path. The country which is traversed by this route is generally composed of rich and beautiful prairies, extending on each side, in some places, as far as the eye can reach, and exhibiting every appearance of fertility. In fixing the boundaries of the farming country for the Menominies by the Treaty, we were not aware of the extent of country embraced within their limits. And, from the information I now possess on the subject, I feel no hesitation in saying that the Menominie Tribe will not require two thirds of the land retained for them within the present century. They can, therefore without prejudicing their interests, cede a portion of this country to the United States; and I presume they would receive as an equivalent, an equal quantity of land on the Sconto, as well on account of the fine fisheries on that stream, as of the valuable groves of Sugar trees in the vicinity. It was with much reluctance that they parted with the land bordering on the stream, in the first place; and it was procured for the New York Indians on account of the valuable mill privileges which the river contains.

In my opinion, however, there is one question, which I consider of great importance, which should be settled before the government incurs any more expense on this subject; and that is, “ *whether the government now intends to establish an Indian colony east of the Mississippi and west of the Lakes; or has it abandoned that idea ?*” This plan was

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introduced by Mr. Calhoun, and afterwards favorably noticed by Mr. Barbour, in the able reports of these gentlemen, when occupying the office of Secretary of War. If it is still considered expedient to locate the North Western Indians in this country, the land should be apportioned among the first settlers, with an eye to the ultimate object. The Menominie Treaty has a clause providing for this contingency, which gives the United States the power, at any time, of extinguishing the title of this Tribe to all their lands on the west side of Fox river, and Green Bay, with the exception of the tract set apart for their farming country. There the government can at once possess itself of at least *four millions of acres*, for the purpose of establishing this colony, exclusive of that already obtained for the New York Tribes. The western boundary line between the U.S. and the Indians would then be the Fox and Wisconsin rivers — the one emptying its waters into the lakes and the other into the Mississippi, four miles below Prairie du Chene.

I believe that this Country could be cultivated, with great success, as far north as the Menominie river, which empties into Green Bay, about sixty miles below this settlement. There are two American Traders located about three miles up this river from its mouth, who raise excellent crops of corn, oats and potatoes. This river has water power equal to Fox river, and it is a still more handsome stream. Messrs. Farnsworth and Bush,¹ the Traders are erecting a sawmill on the premises they occupy, on one of the finest sites I have ever seen. They take, and export every season, from three to eight hundred barrels of White Fish. They catch the fish in a basket, fixed under a dam in the river.

¹ See sketch of William Farnsworth, by Morgan L. Martin, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix, pp. 397–400.— Ed.

In concluding this communication I can not refrain from again calling your attention to the dazzling attractions offered by this country, to an enterprising and industrious population: and its location may better be explained by fixing its *course* and *distance* from prominent points known to the geography of the United States. From this place to Buffalo, the distance is above nine hundred miles. The navigation between these places,

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is uninterrupted, and the 436 waters through which it passes, are Green Bay and Lake Michigan, to the Island of Machinaw, a distance of two hundred and ten miles. Lake Huron, River St. Clair, Lake St. Clair and a part of Detroit river, to the city of Detroit, a distance from Machinac of four hundred miles; and then through part of Detroit river to Lake Erie, about three hundred miles, to Buffalo. This water communication, continued to the city of New York, by the Erie Canal and the Hudson river, and although there is but little competition in the carrying trade, on the upper Lakes, the expense of transportation from Green Bay to the city of New York is very trifling. As soon as the country opens, and its rich produce begins to float down the Lakes, competition in the carrying business will increase, and the price of transportation to and from the eastern markets will diminish. If the Pennsylvania Canal is extended to Erie, there will be a choice of markets opened to the agriculturalist of this region, and Philadelphia and Baltimore can compete with New York for the immense business of the Lake country.

The distance from Green Bay to Prairie du chene, by way of Fox and Wisconsin rivers, upon which the merchandize destined for the Prairie and Fort Winnebago is transported, is about four hundred miles. But by the path travelled by horsemen, the distance is not above two hundred and thirty miles. The distance from the Bay to Fort Winnebago, at the Wisconsin portage, by this path, is about one hundred and ten miles, travelling nearly S. W. course. There is a portage of about a mile and a quarter in length between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. From Green Bay settle to *Mineral point* , by way of Wisconsin portage, which is the only road now travelled, the distance is about one hundred. and ninety miles, and from Mineral Point to Galena it is thirty six miles. A little assistance from the Government to aid in improving the Fox river below Winnebago Lake and upon a road from the head of the Lake to the mining country, is alone required not only to shorten the distance of the routes, and facilitate transportation, but to reduce 437 the price of it at least one-half below the present rates. I believe that the distance from the mouth of Fond du lac river, at the head of Winnebago Lake, to Mineral Point, by a course along which a road can be opened with great ease, will not exceed eighty miles. You are aware that distances

are frequently computed by Indian marches; and it is a well authenticated fact, that, during Col. Dixon's¹ expedition at the close of the last war, the Indians marched from a place called Pine-bends, thirty miles beyond Mineral Point, to Garlic Island in Winnebago Lake, about twenty miles below Fond du lac river, *in two days* . Thus by calculating the distance from the mouth of Fond du Lac to Mineral Point at 80 miles, these Indians are made to march sixty five miles a day; and that is a very long march for an Indian.

1 John Dixon, first settler of Dixon, Ill., and a prominent participant in the Black Hawk War. — Ed.

It is very evident that the period is not remote, when the great thoroughfare between the Mississippi and the City of New York will pass through Green Bay. Nature has done so much for this country that there must soon be a commodious highway, connecting the waters of the Lakes with the Mississippi river; and then the whole business of Galena, the lead mines and the upper Mississippi will take this route, by which the value of property at the line of ship navigation will be greatly enhanced, and the commerce of the Lakes much benefitted.² These advantages require a population that understands how to improve them. Let the Menominie Treaty be ratified, by which the government will have received three millions of choice acres to hold out as inducement to emigration, and that population will not be long wanting; more especially if the Bill organizing the new Territory passes this session, which is earnestly called for by the true interests of the country.

2 See Sanborn's "Story of the Fox-Wisconsin River Improvement," *Wis. Hist. Soc. Proc.*, 1899, pp. 186–194; and Libby's "Significance of the Lead and Shot Trade in Early Wisconsin History," *Wis. Hist Colls.*, xiii, pp. 293–334.—Ed.

438

I now, with due deference, submit this communication to you. It is lengthy, and a perusal will no doubt be fatiguing; but I was unable to comprise it within a smaller compass. The subject which has given it birth has reached a crisis [which renders it of serious importance

Library of Congress

to the government, and my sole desire is, when the final question comes up for decision, to have the government act upon correct information. I can then have no fear of the result. The Senate of the United States will not suffer an arrangement, so highly advantageous to the government as the Menominie Treaty, to be lost, upon objections so futile as those urged against it by the New York Indians.

I am, sir, very respectfully, Your ob't. Svt. S. C. Stambaugh .